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Vision 2020 Standing Committee 03/17/2004

ARLINGTON VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF March 17, 2004 MEETING

Attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Andrew Fischer, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Sherry Miller, Angela Olszewski, Ed Starr, Jeff Thielman, Patricia Watson.

- The **minutes** of the February 17 meeting were accepted as presented.
- **Census Survey:** 2645 replies have been received to date, almost 1000 more than last year. Everything received through Sunday, March 14 has been entered (about 15 people worked on this). The Selectmen received a preliminary report, based on 1884 replies, before their March 15 meeting. A more complete report will be given to them and to Town Meeting in April.
 - Over 400 people signed up for task groups and/or offered skills.
 - Topics drawing the most comments were: (1) DPW – snow removal and leaf pickup (both contracted out) and maintenance; (2) Schools – cuts in programs and courses; (3) Library – cuts in hours.
 - Next year's survey should have a deadline (replies received after that date won't be tallied).
- **Coming events:**
 - Candidates' night March 25, Warrant Review April 15.
 - There has been a lot of turnover in Vision 2020 participants, so the next Standing Committee meeting, on April 13, will be replaced by a "refresher" session with the original consultant, Cavas Gobhai. Currently active task group members and newly signed up people will be invited.
 - Public meeting on the new plan to make the Reservoir dam safe without destroying the trees, April 21.
 - State of the Town address April 26, before first session of Town Meeting.
- **Committee reports:**
 - **Spy Pond:** DCR is allowing the Town to count weed treatment, as well as goose-egg addling, as parts of the match toward the DEM/DCR grant, so the treatment can be paid for from Planning Dept. (CDBG) funds and doesn't need an appropriation from Town Meeting.
 - **Diversity** and the School Committee will host a reception for minority candidates interested in teaching in Arlington (45 were found at a recent minority job fair). Another Diversity Month is planned for next October.
 - **Governance:** The "Settling In" booklet is getting a new welcoming letter from the new Town Manager and won't be ready in time for Town Meeting.
 - **Insurance:** Town health insurance for 2003 was 91% of projections, not 91% of the previous year (i.e., it did go up but not as much as feared).
 - **Other:** Because of the obesity epidemic, schools should provide nutrition education and promote walking to school.
- **Town Hall updates:**
 - There have been fewer requests for reconsideration after this round of property reassessment than after previous ones.
 - The Town Clerk's office is working on reducing the number of polling places to 8 or 9, to save costs, by the November elections.
 - DPW plans an event in late May – demonstrations of what they do.
 - Reed's Brook won't be ready for use this summer. Inclusion of a dog park is still under discussion.
 - Joey suggested that a Civic Gardening group should be formed as an umbrella for several efforts already under way, e.g. the Green Streets group and the Town Hall garden volunteers.